PRAYER TIME

Prayer Points for Prayer Time (5-6 minutes)
One prayer point for our church, our city, our country (2 minutes on each)

COMMUNION/LORD'S TABLE

BABY DEDICATION

FTV WELCOME

Welcome first-time visitors….
What we do announce is that if you are already part of a church that teaches the Word of God, we encourage you to remain faithful there. But if you are looking for a home church, we welcome you to visit us again and see if this is where God wants you to be planted.

LIVE STREAM AUDIENCE

Welcome! Please visit apcwo.org/ftv. Please Like, Share and Subscribe, if in Bangalore come to any one of our Sunday services. Please engage, post comments in the Live Chat during service.

SUNDAY VIDEO ANNOUNCEMENTS

DECLARATION

(Central: Swarnima Chettri)

THIS IS GOD'S WORD.
THIS IS GOD SPEAKING TO ME.
I AM WHO GOD SAYS I AM. I CAN DO WHAT GOD SAYS I CAN DO
I WILL BECOME EVERYTHING GOD HAS PROMISED.
I AM SAVED, HEALED, DELIVERED, REDEEMED.
I AM BLESSED, VICTORIOUS, PROSPEROUS, TRIUMPHANT.
I AM A MINISTER OF GOD, A SERVANT OF CHRIST AND A CHANNEL OF HIS BLESSING TO MANY PEOPLE.
I RECEIVE HIS WORD I BELIEVE HIS WORD AND I LIVE BY HIS WORD.
CHRIST IS MY MASTER, TO HIM I AM IN ABSOLUTE SURRENDER.
IN JESUS NAME. AMEN.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

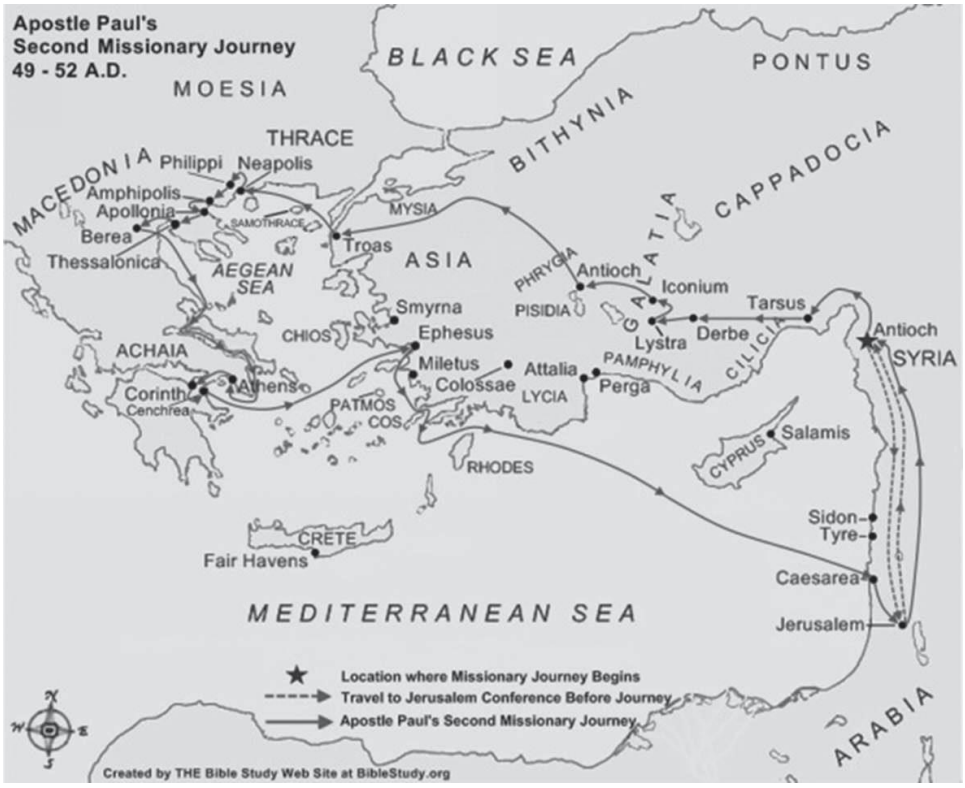
TESTIMONY

1 Thessalonians (Part-1)
Verse by verse book study
September 03, 2023

BACKGROUND TO FIRST AND SECOND THESSALONIANS

We read about Paul's Second Missionary Journey (A.D. 49 - A.D. 52) in Acts 15:36 – Acts 18:22

Paul's second missionary journey lasted about three years, during which Paul and his team (including Silas, and Timothy) visited several places in Asia Minor and Europe and established many local churches. They preached in some of the major world cities of that time including Philippi, Thessalonica, Athens, Corinth, and Ephesus.



Paul's ministry at Thessalonica is recorded in Acts 17:1-10. The team may have stayed here for about 4 weeks (three sabbaths, Acts 17:2). The Gospel was preached in the power of the Spirit (1 Thessalonians 1:5). Paul supported himself and the team at Thessalonica by working (1 Thessalonians 2:9; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-10). The Philippians also sent some aid to the team (Philippians 4:16).

A few of the Jews and many the Gentiles became believers (Acts 17:4). The Jews who did not believe rose in persecution against Paul and his team. They specifically attacked the house of one man named Jason, and a few of the new believers. The believers then quickly sent Paul and Silas away to Berea (Acts 17:10-13). From Berea Paul travelled to Athens. From Athens, Paul sent Timothy to Thessalonica to encourage the believers there who were being persecuted by Jews (1 Thessalonians 3:1-2). From Athens Paul went to Corinth where he stayed for about 18 months (Acts 18:11) and worked along with Aquilla and Priscilla, who were Jewish believers who had come to Corinth from Rome. Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia and joined Paul, Aquila, and Priscilla at Corinth (Acts 18:5). Timothy had returned from Thessalonica with good news about the continued faith of the believers there (1 Thessalonians 3:6-7). While at Corinth, Paul wrote the first two of his epistles—1 Thessalonians and 2 Thessalonians, sometime around A.D. 52.

1 THESSALONIANS CHAPTER 1

1 Thessalonians 1
1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Vs 1: Since Silas and Timothy are with him at Corinth, Paul includes them in the opening greeting of both 1 and 2 Thessalonians.

Unlike most of the other epistles, Paul does not call himself an apostle in 1 and 2 Thessalonians. For some reason, he did not feel it necessary to do so.

Why did Paul write to the Thessalonians?
As a reminder – much of what is contained in the two letters is a reminder of the things Paul taught them during the month Paul and his team were there at Thessalonica.
As an encouragement – not to be shaken by the persecutions they were facing.
As an encouragement – to those who had lost their loved ones, about our future hope of the return of the Lord Jesus and the resurrection.

2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers,
3 remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father,
4 knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God.

Vs 2: We need to pray for the local church community.

Vs 3: Faith works. Love labors. Hope is patient.

The difference between the word "work" and "labor" is interesting. The word "work" refers to effort or activity. The word "labor" refers to the pain or weariness involved in doing the work. The word "patience" refers to cheerful endurance.

In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul mentions faith, hope, and love as three continuing qualities of a believer.

Faith enables us to work.
Love enables us to endure pain and weariness.
Hope enables us to have cheerful endurance through the hard times.

Vs 4: The church in Thessalonica was predominantly Greeks (Gentiles), with some Jewish believers. He reminds both Jews and Gentiles who had become believers that they have been "selected" by God.

God calls everyone. The Gospel is for everyone, for "whosoever believes". Those who respond become the chosen, or called, or elect or selected ones.

5 For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.
6 And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit,
7 so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe.

The Gospel was proclaimed in the power of the Holy Spirit and with much confidence. We need to do the same today. We are preaching the same Gospel. We must preach with power, in the Holy Spirit and with complete confidence. The Gospel needs no apology.

This “much assurance” or complete confidence was exemplified in and through the lives of Paul, Silas and Timothy, in the one month they were with the new believers at Thessalonica.

Vs 6: It is interesting to see how Paul stated that the new believers became followers “of us”. We are the embodiment of the Lord to people. People see the Lord in us, and follow us, and in so doing they follow the Lord.

The attributes Paul is specifically pointing to are the “much assurance” (vs 5) and joy of the Holy Spirit during “much affliction” (vs 6). Confidence and joy in the middle of persecution, is what Paul and his team walked in and the new believers followed that same example.

Ves 6-7 reveal an interesting “chain reaction” or “ripple effect”. Paul and his team followed the Lord Jesus and set the example. The new believers followed Paul and his team, and then set the example to other new believers in the districts of Macedonia (cities of Philippi, Berea and others) and Achaia (cities of Athens and Corinth). If we set an example, then those who see us, follow that example, and become an example to others, so that the example we set gets replicated and multiplied.

8 For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.
9 For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,
10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

The new believers in Thessalonica became proclaimers of the Gospel even beyond Macedonia and Achaia. The news of their faith in God, their turning away from idols to serve the true and living God had spread in many regions beyond.

1 THESSALONIANS CHAPTER 2

1 Thessalonians 2
1 For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain.
2 But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict.

Paul reminds these believers how his team had suffered in Philippi having been beaten and put in the inner prison with their feet in stocks (Acts 16:23-24). Paul recalls how they came to Thessalonica and preached the Gospel boldly despite of what they had just endured in Philippi. Paul recognizes now that their labor was not in vain, because a thriving community of believers had been established in Thessalonica.

3 For our exhortation did not come from error or uncleanness, nor was it in deceit.
4 But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.
5 For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness—God is witness.
6 Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ.

Vs 3-6: Seven things to avoid when ministering and preaching the Gospel:

1. Error, delusion – don't' preach untruth.
2. Uncleanness, impure motive, trick – don't try to trick people into believing.
3. Deceit, intent to mislead, fool – don't mislead people.
4. Flattering words – don't try to use cunning compliments.
5. Cover for greed ("cloak for covetousness") – avoid any form of greed.
6. Seeking glory from men – do not seek the applause of people.
7. Making demands – do not make demands of others.

Vs 4: As ministers we must know that we have been approved (tested and found worthy) by God and entrusted (to put faith in) with the Gospel. Hence, as we preach and minister, we must do to not to please men, but to please God, who "tests our hearts", and discerns our motives.

God tests our hearts (vs 4)
God is witness (vs 5)

7 But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children.
8 So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.

The apostle Paul pointed to how they conducted themselves during that month of ministry at Thessalonica. It is evident that in that short span of time, the new believers had found a special place in the heart of Paul and his team "you had become dear to us".

Paul and his team worked with these new believers:
With gentleness – being patient and kind.
With sincere care – as a nursing mother cares for her own children.
With affection – with sincere love for them.
With willing sacrifice – ready to give into their lives.

How do we work with the people we are called to serve?

9 For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God.
10 You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe;
11 as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children,
12 that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

The apostle Paul reminds these new believers of his team's:
Our work – labor and toil. This implies that Paul and his team worked to take care of their own needs.
Our conduct – devout, just, blameless.
Our ministry – exhort, comfort, charge.
When people see our work, conduct and ministry, do they see similar qualities in us?

We must work with believers and remind them to walk (live) worthy of God who called you.

13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

Paul commends these believers for the way they received the Word that was ministered to them. An because of them welcoming the Word of God with reverence, the Word worked powerfully in them.

How do we receive the Word when we hear it preached to us?

How we receive the Word will determine the effectiveness with which the Word will work in us.

14 For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they did from the Judeans,
15 who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they do not please God and are contrary to all men,
16 forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they may be saved, so as always to fill up the measure of their sins; but wrath has come upon them to the uttermost.

The church in Thessalonica were standing up in the midst of persecution from the Jews, just as the believers in and around Jerusalem.

17 But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavored more eagerly to see your face with great desire.
18 Therefore we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us.

Paul expresses his desire to see the new believers at Thessalonica, again.

We must recognize that Satan works against us in the ministry. The opposition put up by the Jews in Thessalonica, who came all the way to Berea to attack Paul and disrupt his work and tried to keep him out of Thessalonica – Paul said "satan hindered us". Could Paul have pushed past this? Yes, he could have. But he found it more important to continue his missionary journey, reaching other cities. We must choose our battles. Not all battles are worth fighting.

19 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?
20 For you are our glory and joy.

What a powerful statement! What could we "boast" in or take pride in, when we stand in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ? Can we boast of any earthly accomplishment? The answer according to Paul is "people" – the people we served, they are our hope, joy, crown, glory, rejoicing in the presence of the Lord. We look at the people who are there because we served Jesus and we rejoice together in His presence!

SUMMARY

GOSPEL AND SALVATION CALL

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads

The is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation
To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our sermons page. Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome
The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word
Read the following Scripture references: *1 Thessalonians chapters 1 and 2*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together
Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1, Discuss Faith works. Love labors. Hope is patient. (1 Thessalonians 1:3). How do we apply this in our daily walk as believers?

2, Discuss the seven things to avoid when serving God, based on 1 Thessalonians 2:3-6

1) *Error, delusion – don't' preach untruth.*
2) *Uncleanness, impure motive, trick – don't try to trick people into believing.*
3) *Deceit, intent to mislead, fool – don't mislead people.*
4) *Flattering words – don't try to use cunning compliments.*
5) *Cover for greed ("cloak for covetousness") – avoid any form of greed.*
6) *Seeking glory from men – do not seek the applause of people.*
7) *Making demands – do not make demands of others.*

3, Share your one main takeaway from these two chapters.

If time permits, each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey
Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another
Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:
1, families to be protected and strengthened
2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.
3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.

Close by thanking God together.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.
YOUTUBE: https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore
WEBSITE: https://apcwo.org/live

Our other websites and free resources:
CHURCH: https://apcwo.org
FREE SERMONS: https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons
FREE BOOKS: https://apcwo.org/books/english
DAILY DEVOTIONALS: https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional
JESUS CHRIST: https://examiningjesus.com
BIBLE COLLEGE: https://apcbiblecollege.org
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WEEKEND SCHOOLS: https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools
COUNSELING: https://chrysalislife.org
MUSIC: https://apcmusic.org
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CHURCH APP: https://apcwo.org/app
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WORLD MISSIONS: https://apcworldmissions.org

SERMON OUTLINE

This sermon series is a verse-by-verse study of 1 and 2 Thessalonians, the first two epistles written by the apostle Paul. In Part-1 of this sermon series we provide a brief background to Paul's ministry in Thessalonica, and then cover chapters 1 and 2 of 1 Thessalonians. We discover how faith, hope and love are vital for christian life. We learn the importance of cheerful endurance during persecution. We learn the traits of being godly ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

KEYWORDS

1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, sermon, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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Biblical definitions, Hebrew and Greek words and their meanings are drawn from the following resources:

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